mide polymers, poly (vinylpyrrolidone), and mixed partial salts of poly(methyl vinyl ether-co-maleic and increase inviscosity and cohesion as a result of the absorption of water from the growth medium. Zone of inhibition studies were carried out as previously described in Example I. After 48 hours, the triclosan-containing denture adhesive above exhibited a zone of inhibition of approximately 3–4 mm, while a commercial available denture adhesive did not exhibit a zone of inhibition. In fact, the surface of the commercial denture adhevise was colonized by *S. mutans* after the 48-hour test period. The addition of triclosan to the denture adhesive formulation above resulted in a composition capable of inhibiting microorganisms in the volume surrounding the swollen or cured adhesive mass.

It is to be understood that the embodiments of the present invention which have been described are merely illustrative of some of the applications of the principles of the invention. Numerous modifications may be made by those skilled in the art based upon the teachings presented herein without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An artificial fingernail composition, comprising: a polymerizable system and a water-insoluble anti-microbial agent inert to the polymerizable system, wherein said composition is cured to produce an artificial fingernail.

2. An artificial fingernail comprising a cured polymerization system and a water-insoluble anti-microbial agent inert to the polymerization system, wherein said anti-microbial agent provides a zone of inhibition of growth of bacteria surrounding said artificial fingernail.

3. The artificial fingernail of claim **1** wherein said water insoluble antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of halogenated diphenyl ethers, halogenated salicylanilides, benzoic esters, halogenated carbanalides and phenolic compounds.

4. The artificial fingernail of claim **1** wherein said water insoluble antimicrobial agent is triclosan.

5. The artificial fingernail of claim **4** wherein said triclosan is present in an amount of 0.3% by weight of non-volatile solids.

6. The artificial fingernail of claim **4** wherein said triclosan is present in an amount of 1.0% by weight of non-volatile solids.

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